

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying an agent that modulates sphingosine-1-phosphate lyase activity, comprising:

(a) contacting a candidate agent with a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8;

an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity to a sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8; and

an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to a sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8;

wherein said polypeptide has sphingosine-1-phosphate lyase activity; and wherein the step of contacting is carried out under conditions and for a time sufficient to allow the candidate agent to interact with said polypeptide; and

(b) subsequently measuring the ability of said polypeptide to degrade sphingosine-1-phosphate or a derivative thereof, relative to an ability in the absence of said candidate agent, and therefrom identifying an agent that modulates sphingosine-1-phosphate lyase activity.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the step of contacting is performed by incubating a cell expressing said polypeptide with the candidate agent, and wherein the step of measuring the ability to degrade sphingosine-1-phosphate is performed using an *in vitro* assay and a cellular extract.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 wherein said cell has been transformed or transfected with a recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleotide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7.

7.-30. (Canceled)